

## Information Note<sup>1</sup>

- Event:** European Union CBRN Centres of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE) 15<sup>th</sup> CBRN CoE National Focal Points Round-table meeting for South-East Asia (SEA)
- Organizer:** Government of Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (PDR), EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat for South East Asia
- Date and Venue:** 12-13 December 2018, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Participants:** Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), 1540 Committee Experts, European Commission, Business and Strategies in Europe

### Background

- Resolution 1540 (2004) and successor resolutions including resolution 1977 (2011) and resolution 2325 (2016) acknowledge that States may require assistance in the implementation of their obligations. Resolution 2325 (2016) also requires that the 1540 Committee strengthen its role in facilitating technical assistance for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by engaging actively in matching offers and requests for assistance, inter alia through a regional approach, where appropriate.
- Resolution 2325 (2016) encourages relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to enhance cooperation and information-sharing with the 1540 Committee, on the issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Resolution 2325 (2016) encourages the Committee to develop, in collaboration with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, assistance projects to support States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) to facilitate the prompt and direct response to assistance requests.
- Further, resolution 1810 (2008), resolution 1977 (2011) and resolution 2325 (2016) encourage States to prepare on a voluntary basis national implementation action plans, with the assistance, as appropriate, of the 1540 Committee that map out priorities and plans for implementing the provisions of resolution 1540 (2004), and to submit those plans to the 1540 Committee.
- On November 1, 2018, the UNICRI sent an invitation to the 1540 Committee to explore possible collaboration in supporting the development of 1540 NAPs in the region. UNICRI and the European Commission together with other international organizations and local experts implement the EU CBRN CoE Initiative and supported the ten countries of the region by establishing their CBRN National Teams or CBRN Working Groups and developing their CBRN National Action Plans.
- In the same letter, the UNICRI also invited the 1540 Group of Experts to participate to the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Round Table Meeting of the South East Asia CBRN CoE National Focal Points in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- Two Experts attended the conference.

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<sup>1</sup> For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

## **Overview**

The 15<sup>th</sup> CBRN CoE National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for South-East Asia was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December, and the 1540 Group of Experts were invited to participate for day 2 and 3.

Experts from the 1540 Committee gave presentations on basic obligations of resolution 1540 (2004) and the assistance program of the 1540 Committee including development of voluntary national implementation action plans for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Experts emphasized that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is legal obligation to all the United Nations member states while developing national implementation action plans is exclusively voluntary. The organizers of the meeting and the Experts both agreed that certain procedural elements of developing CBRN national action plans are useful to learn when developing national implementation action plans for resolution 1540 (2004).

In the margins of the meetings, the 1540 Experts also bilaterally discussed with representatives from the regional countries regarding the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The meeting focused on the development of the CBRN national action plans in the ASEAN countries, and the participants to the meeting were the national focal points of the CBRN initiatives. Therefore, there were few directly relevant representatives to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Nonetheless, certain aspects under CBRN national action plans are relevant to the obligations under resolution 1540 (2004), in particular the prevention of CBRN acquisition and use by non-State actors. Also, raising awareness and involving relevant national stakeholders are necessary aspects for developing national action plans for both CBRN and resolution 1540 (2004).

Developing 1540 national action plan is a useful tool for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in case of the ASEAN countries, because all 10 countries have already developed CBRN national action plans that include the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), it is recommended that Group of Experts stands ready to provide assistance upon request from those countries in implementing the relevant elements to resolution 1540 including though the adoption of such plans.

## **Additional Comments**

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at [1540experts@un.org](mailto:1540experts@un.org)